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Applicant : Hiroaki Yamamoto

Art Unit : 1652

Serial No. : 09/305,390

Examiner : R. H. Hulse

Filed : May 5, 1999

Title : METHOD FOR PRODUCING OPTICALLY ACTIVE 4-HALO-3-HYDROXYBUTYRIC ACID ESTER

**Box AF**

Commissioner for Patents  
Washington, D.C. 20231

RESPONSE

In response to advisory action mailed March 28, 2001 and the final office action mailed November 7, 2000, applicant withdraws the response filed February 28, 2001, which the Examiner refused to enter into the application on the ground that the amendments required new consideration (see advisory action). Instead, applicant offers the amendments and remarks below, which do not require new consideration.

In the Claims:

~~Cancel claims 24-27.~~

Replace the claims as follows.

-- 7. (Amended) A method for producing (S)-4-halo-3-hydroxybutyric acid ester, the method comprising asymmetrically reducing a 4-halo-acetoacetic acid ester or its derivative with a purified acetoacetyl-CoA reductase that can participate in a poly- $\beta$ -hydroxy fatty acid biosynthesis system, the purified acetoacetyl-CoA reductase comprising the amino acid sequence of a naturally occurring acetoacetyl-CoA reductase.

CERTIFICATE OF MAILING BY FIRST CLASS MAIL

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MAY 2, 2001

Kathleen Philpot

KATHLEEN PHILPOT

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